



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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COMMISSIONER

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THOMAS F. FARLEY
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

May 9, 2003

Michelle Brickner, P.E.
Director, Office of Site Development Services, DPWES
12055 Government Center Pkwy, Suite 555
Fairfax, Va. 22035-5503

Re: **Curb Cut Ramps**

Dear Mr. Brickner:

On February 12, 2003 VDOT's Location and Design Division published *Instructional and Informational Memorandum LD-55.7* concerning curb cut ramps. This memorandum is a revision of VDOT curb cut ramp policies and standards to conform to the latest federal regulations.

Noteworthy changes include the following:

1. New guidance on curb cut ramp locations, clarifying the 2001 policy revisions. In most circumstances in Northern Virginia, when it is not feasible to provide ramps for each direction of crossing due to the use of larger corner radii, diagonal ramps may be used. When this option is selected, a 48"x48" maneuvering space must be available within the crosswalks as shown on sheet 18.
2. Requirement that the gutter pan slope, at the handicapped ramp, not exceed 20:1.
3. A completely new parallel ramp layout (CG-12B) is shown on sheet 19.
4. Instead of exposed aggregate, a 2' wide detectable warning surface, colored yellow, will be used adjacent to the street.
5. A new Insertable Sheet A59 for standards CG-12A, CG-12B, and CG-12C, and a special provision copied note for detectable warning surfaces, have been developed to implement these policies for use on VDOT plans.

6. Use of the CG-12B and CG-12C options will require that additional items be included on the plans as indicated below. It is suggested that this might best be displayed in a table for each handicapped ramp, which would also need to be numbered so that the proper ramp can be installed at the proper location.

- calculation of the length of the parallel ramps, as detailed in the IIM LD-55.7 on sheets 12-14.
- specific details as to how the transition from the normal 12:1 slope to the requisite 20:1 slope at the ramp is to be constructed in order to maintain adequate drainage.

Because the normal practice in Northern Virginia is to provide much larger corner radii than shown on the IIM or Insertable Sheet, a Modified CG-12C configuration, acceptable to VDOT, is enclosed for inclusion with submitted plans, if this type of ramp is selected. In most cases, this detail would avoid the need for additional ROW to install the handicapped ramp.

A similar specific detail must be included for any other ramp configuration shown on the plans.

This office will expect the new handicapped ramp design to be included on all first submission site plans and subdivision plans that are submitted to the county after June 1, 2003. All plans submitted after that date must include a specific detail of the handicapped ramp design(s) that are to be constructed. Notes or labels, that just indicate where CG-12 ramps are to be located, will be considered insufficient.

The use of this new ramp design(s) will be encouraged for any roadway that is now being requested for acceptance for state maintenance, and will be required for any roadway for which the first plan submission was made on/after June 1, 2003.

We are enclosing a copy of IIM LD-55.7, the Insertable Sheet, and the Detectable Warning Surface Special Provision for your use. The text of the Instructional and Informational Memorandum is available on the VDOT external web site at <http://virginiadot.org/business/manuals-default.asp>. Please share this information with your engineering, inspection, and planning staff and others on your mailing list.

If you have any questions, please call me at (703) 383-2424.

Sincerely,

Paul J. Kraucunas, P.E.
Manager, Land Development Section